Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 24371 230905Z ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7476

SECRETPARIS 24371

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR ACTING SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR HARTMAN

DELIVER AS OF OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 2, 3 TAGS: PARM SF FR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PLANT

REF: (A) STATE 200247; (B) STATE 200248

1. I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT I AM PLAYING SQUARE WITH THE FRENCH. MY LAST CONTACT WITH THEM ON FRIDAY REQUESTED THEIR URGENT DECISION ON ACCOMPANYING US ON AN INSPECTION OF THE KALAHARI FACILITY. SINCE THAT TIME, ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, WE HAVE APPARENTLY DECIDED TO ACCEPT THREE VERBAL ASSURANCES. THE FRENCH BELIEVE, ON THE BASIS OF OUR BRIEFINGS, THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO TELL WHAT THIS FACILITY IS WITHOUT ON-SITE INSPECTION AND, THEREFORE, THEY MAY HAVE SOME QUESTIONS AS TO WHY WE WILL NOW ACCEPT VERBAL ASSURANCES ON THESE THREE POINTS. IS THERE SOME INTERVENING FACT THAT WE ARE NOT TELLING THE FRENCH?

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PAGE 02 PARIS 24371 230905Z

2. I ASSUME DE GUIRINGAUD WAS, IN FACT, REFERRING TO OUR INFORMATION IN HIS STATEMENT REPORTED IN EMBTEL 24336 AND HIS REFERENCE TO "NEW INFORMATION" IS TO INDICATE HE WAS GOING ON SOMETHING OTHER THAN INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY SOVIETS. THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE "KALAHARI DESERT" APPEARS IN AN AFP DESPATCH OF MONDAY NIGHT FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED SOURCE PRESUMABLY IN THE

FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

3. I HOPE I CAN HAVE AN URGENT REPLY TO QUESTION IN PARA 1. BUT TO ASSURE THAT FRENCH ARE MADE URGENTLY AWARE OF LATEST STEPS WE ARE TAKING AND SENSITIVITY OF MENTIONING SITE, I WILL SEE SOUTOU SOONEST ON REFTEL B. HARTMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

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BRIEFINGS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 8-23-77

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